

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace page 14, paragraph 3, with the amended following paragraph:

Still other modifications may be made. For example, the exemplary application topologies of Figures 3 and 4 depict the controller ICs 10 or 10' driving a derived Royer circuit formed by Q1 and Q2. However, the controller 10 or 10' may be likewise applied to a push-pull inverter, a half bridge inverter and/or ~~or~~ other type of two switch inverter topology known in the art. Yet further, the controller IC 10 or 10' may be modified to include a second pair of drive signals (e.g., PDR1 and PDR2) to enable the controller IC 10 or 10' to drive a four switch inverter topology (e.g., full bridge inverter).

Please replace page 15, paragraph 1 with the amended following paragraph:

The present invention is not limited to a CCFL load. Indeed the controller 10 or 10' of the present invention may be used to drive other lamp loads, such as metal halide or sodium vapor. Still other loads may be used. For example, the controller 10 or 10' of the present invention may be adapted to operate in a frequency range to support driving an x-ray tube or other higher frequency load. The present invention is not limited to the load type, and should be construed as load independent. Additionally, for multiple lamp topologies such as depicted in Figure 4, numerous other topologies may be used, for example as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,104,146, and U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/873,669, 09/850,692, and 10/035,973, all of which are ~~enecorporated~~ incorporated by reference in their entirety.